6

120

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON THE GREAT AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE PREROGATIVE OF THE CROWN;

From the 17th of December 1783, to the 10th of March 1784.

INCLUDING THE MOVER AND SECONDER,

And the Numbers in the Diviſion on each Motion.

Extracted verbatim from the Records of Parliament.

LONDON:

Printed for J. DEBRETT, oppoſite Burlington-Houſe, Piccadilly.

M. DCC. LXXXIV.

10 March 1784

THESE Reſolutions, ſo important to every man who values the conſtitution of his country, are thus collected, to ſerve not only as a matter of reference and record, but to exhibit in one point of view the true nature, and the alarming extent and tendency of the queſtion in which the Repreſentatives of the people have been at iſſue with the Crown.

THESE Reſolutions, ſo important to every man who values the conſtitution of his country, are thus collected, to ſerve not only as a matter of reference and record, but to exhibit in one point of view the true nature, and the alarming extent and tendency of the queſtion in which the Repreſentatives of the people have been at iſſue with the Crown.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mercurii 17° Die Decembris, 1783.

Moved by WILLIAM BAKER, Eſq. ſeconded by the Lord Viſcount MAITLAND.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is now neceſſary to declare, that, to report any opinion, or pretended opinion of His Majeſty, upon any bill, or other proceeding, depending in either Houſe of Parliament, with a view to influence the votes of the Members, is a high crime and miſdemeanor, derogatory to the honour of the Crown, a breach of the fundamental privi-

leges of Parliament, and ſubverſive of the conſtitution of this country.

The order of the day was moved,

Ayes	—	80
Noes	—	153
Majority	—	73

The original queſtion was then carried.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Houſe will upon Monday morning next, reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to conſider of the ſtate of the nation.

Moved by the Honourable
THOMAS ERSKINE.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is neceſſary to the moſt eſſential intereſts of this kingdom, and peculiarly incumbent on this Houſe, to purſue with unremitting attention the conſideration of a ſuitable

able remedy for the abuſes which have prevailed in the government of the Britiſh dominions in the Eaſt-Indies; and that this Houſe will conſider as an enemy to his country any perſon who ſhall preſume to adviſe His Majeſty to prevent, or in any manner interrupt the diſcharge of this important duty.

Ayes	——	147
Noes	——	73
Majority	—	74

Lunæ 22°. *Die Decembris*, 1783.

Moved from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, by the Honourable RICHARD FITZPATRICK.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

" WE, your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament aſſembled, think ourſelves bound in duty, humbly to repreſent to your

Majeſty, that alarming reports of an intended diſſolution of Parliament have gone forth.

" Your Majeſty's faithful Commons, dutifully acknowledging the wiſdom of the conſtitution, in truſting to the Crown that juſt and legal prerogative, and fully confiding in your Majeſty's royal wiſdom and paternal care of your people, for the moſt beneficial exerciſe of it, deſire, with great humility, to repreſent to your Majeſty the inconveniences and dangers which appear to them, from a conſideration of the ſtate of the nation, likely to follow from a prorogation or diſſolution of the Parliament in the preſent arduous and critical conjuncture of affairs: the maintenance of the public credit, and the ſupport of the revenue, demand the moſt immediate attention: the diſorders prevailing in the government of the Eaſt Indies, at home and abroad, call aloud for inſtant

refor-

reformation; and the ſtate of the Eaſt-India Company's finances, from the preſſing demands upon them, requiring a no-leſs immediate ſupport and aſſiſtance from Parliament.

" Your Majeſty's faithful Commons are at preſent proceeding, with the utmoſt diligence, upon theſe great objects of Government, as recommended to their attention by your Majeſty's gracious Speech from the Throne, but which muſt neceſſarily be fruſtrated and diſappointed by the delay attending a diſſolution, and moſt eſpecially the affairs of the Eaſt-Indies, by the aſſembling of a new Parliament, not prepared, by previous enquiry, to enter, with great effect, upon an object involving long and intricate details, which your Majeſty's faithful Commons have inveſtigated, for two years paſt, with the moſt laborious, earneſt, and unremitting attention.

" Your

"Your Majeſty's faithful Commons, deeply affected by theſe important conſiderations, impreſſed with the higheſt reverence and affection for your Majeſty's perſon, and anxious to preſerve the luſtre and ſafety of your Government, do humbly beſeech your Majeſty to ſuffer your faithful Commons to proceed on the buſineſs of the ſeſſion, the furtherance of which is ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the proſperity of the public; and that your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to hearken to the advice of your faithful Commons, and not to the ſecret advices of particular perſons, who may have private intereſts of their own, ſeparate from the true intereſts of your Majeſty and your people."

Carried without a diviſion.

Mercurii,

Mercurii 24° *Die Decembris*, 1783.
Poſt Meridiem.

His MAJESTY'S Anſwer to ſaid Addreſs.

GENTLEMEN,

" IT has been my conſtant object to employ the authority entruſted to me by the Conſtitution to its true and only end, the good of my people; and I am always happy in concurring with the wiſhes and opinions of my faithful Commons. I agree with you in thinking that the ſupport of the public credit and revenue muſt demand your moſt earneſt and vigilant care. The ſtate of the Eaſt Indies is alſo an object of as much delicacy and importance as can exerciſe the wiſdom and juſtice of Parliament. I truſt you will proceed in theſe conſiderations with all convenient ſpeed, after ſuch an adjournment as the preſent circumſtances may ſeem to require;

quire; and I aſſure you, that I ſhall not interrupt your Meeting, by any exerciſe of my prerogative, either of prorogation or diſſolution.

Moved in the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, by the Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP, ſeconded by the Right Honourable C. J. FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury ought not to give their conſent to the acceptance of any bills drawn, or to be drawn, from India, until it ſhall be made to appear to this Houſe, that ſufficient means can be provided for the payment of the ſame, when they reſpectively fall due, by a regular application of the clear effects of the Company, after diſcharging, in their regular courſe, the cuſtoms and other ſums due to the public,

and

and the current demands upon the Company, or until this Houſe ſhall otherwiſe direct.

Moved by the
EARL of SURREY.

RESOLVED,

THAT an humble Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty, that he will be graciouſly pleaſed not to grant the office of Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaſter, for any other term than during pleaſure, before the 20th day of January next.

ORDERED,

That the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty by ſuch Members of this Houſe as are of His Majeſty's moſt honourable Privy Council.

Lunæ 12° *Die Januarii*, 1784.

MR. GREVILLE reported to the Houſe, that their Addreſs of the 24th day of December laſt had been preſented to His Majeſty; and that His Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to ſay, that he will comply with the wiſhes of his faithful Commons.

Lunæ 12° *Die Januarii*, 1784.

Fourth Reſolution from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by the Right Honourable CHARLES JAMES FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT, for any perſon or perſons in His Majeſty's Treaſury, or in the Exchequer, or in the Bank of England, or for any perſon

ſon or perſons whatſoever employed in the payment of public money, to pay, or direct, or cauſe to be paid, any ſum or ſums of money, for or towards the ſupport of ſervices voted in the preſent Seſſion of Parliament, after the Parliament ſhall have been prorogued or diſſolved, if it ſhall be prorogued or diſſolved before any act of Parliament ſhould have paſſed, appropriating the Supplies to ſuch ſervices, will be a high crime and miſdemeanor, a daring breach of a public truſt, derogatory to the fundamental privileges of Parliament, and ſubverſive of the conſtitution of this country.

Fifth Reſolution from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by the Right Hon. CHARLES JAMES FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT there be laid before the Houſe, accounts of the ſeveral ſums of money iſſued, or ordered to be iſſued, from the 19th day of December 1783, to the 12th day of January 1784, incluſive, to any perſon or perſons towards naval ſervices, or for the charges of the Office of Ordnance, or to the Secretaries of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, on account of the Paymaſter-General of His Majeſty's forces, or in any other manner whatever, for and towards ſervices voted in the preſent ſeſſion of Parliament, but not yet appropriated, by any act of Parliament, to ſuch ſervices.

Sixth Reſolution from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by the Earl of SURREY.

RESOLVED,

THAT in the preſent ſituation of His Majeſty's dominions, it is peculiarly neceſſary that there ſhould be an Adminiſtration which has the confidence of this Houſe and the public.

Seventh Reſolution from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by the Earl of SURREY.

RESOLVED,

THAT the late changes in His Majeſty's councils were immediately preceded by dangerous and univerſal reports, that His Majeſty's ſacred name had been unconſtitution-

ally

ally abuſed, to affect the deliberations of Parliament; and that the appointments made were accompanied by circumſtances new and extraordinary, and ſuch as do not conciliate or engage the confidence of this Houſe.

Ayes	——	196
Noes	——	142
Majority	—	54

From the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by the Right Hon. Mr. FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT the bill for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion, and for the better payment of the army and their quarters, be read a ſecond time on Monday the 23d day of February next.

Veneris

Veneris 16° *Die Januarii*, 1784.

Eighth reſolution from the Committee on the STATE of the NATION, moved by LORD CHARLES SPENCER, ſeconded by WILLIAM BAKER, Eſq.

RESOLVED,

THAT (it having been declared to be the opinion of this Houſe, that, in the preſent ſituation of his Majeſty's dominions it is peculiarly neceſſary, that there ſhould be an adminiſtration which has the confidence of this Houſe, and the public; and that the appointments of His Majeſty's preſent Miniſters were accompanied by circumſtances new and extraordinary, and ſuch as do not conciliate or engage the confidence of this Houſe) the continuance of the preſent Miniſters, in truſts of the higheſt importance and reſponſibility is contrary to conſtitutional principles,

principles, and injurious to the intereſts of His Majeſty and his people.

Ayes	——	205
Noes	——	184
Majority	— —	21

Lunæ 26° Die Januarii, 1784.

THE Houſe was moved, That the entry in the votes of the Houſe of the 24th day of December laſt, of his Majeſty's moſt gracious anſwer to the addreſs of this Houſe of the 22d day of the ſame month might be read,

And the ſame being read accordingly,

Moved by the Hon. Mr. EDEN, ſeconded by the Hon. CHARLES MARSHAM.

RESOLVED,

THAT it appears to this Houſe, that His Majeſty's ſaid moſt gracious anſwer contains

tains aſſurances upon which this Houſe cannot but moſt firmly rely, that His Majeſty will not, by the prorogation or diſſolution of Parliament, interrupt this Houſe in their conſiderations of proper meaſures for regulating the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, and for ſupporting the public credit and revenues of this country.—Objects, which in the opinion of His Majeſty, and of this Houſe, and of the public, cannot but be thought to deſerve the moſt immediate and unremitting attention of Parliament.

Lunæ, 2° Die Februarii, 1784.

Moved from the St. ALBAN's Meeting by Mr. GROSVENOR, ſeconded by the Hon. Capt. JAMES LUTTRELL.

RESOLVED, *Nemine contradicente,*

THAT it is the opinion of this Houſe, that the preſent arduous and critical ſituation

principles, and injurious to the intereſts of His Majeſty and his people.

Ayes	——	205
Noes	——	184
Majority	— —	21

Lunæ 26° Die Januarii, 1784.

THE Houſe was moved, That the entry in the votes of the Houſe of the 24th day of December laſt, of his Majeſty's moſt gracious anſwer to the addreſs of this Houſe of the 22d day of the ſame month might be read,

And the ſame being read accordingly,

Moved by the Hon. Mr. EDEN, ſeconded by the Hon. CHARLES MARSHAM.

RESOLVED,

THAT it appears to this Houſe, that His Majeſty's ſaid moſt gracious anſwer contains

tains aſſurances upon which this Houſe cannot but moſt firmly rely, that His Majeſty will not, by the prorogation or diſſolution of Parliament, interrupt this Houſe in their conſiderations of proper meaſures for regulating the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, and for ſupporting the public credit and revenues of this country.—Objects, which in the opinion of His Majeſty, and of this Houſe, and of the public, cannot but be thought to deſerve the moſt immediate and unremitting attention of Parliament.

Lunæ, 2° Die Februarii, 1784.

Moved from the St. ALBAN's Meeting by Mr. GROSVENOR, ſeconded by the Hon. Capt. JAMES LUTTRELL.

RESOLVED, *Nemine contradicente,*

THAT it is the opinion of this Houſe, that the preſent arduous and critical ſituation

of public affairs, requires the exertions of a firm, efficient, extended, united Adminiſtration, entitled to the confidence of the people, and ſuch as may have a tendency to put an end to the unfortunate diviſions and diſtractions of this country.

Moved by THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, member for the County of NORFOLK.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is the opinion of this Houſe, that the continuance of the preſent Miniſters in their offices is an obſtacle to the formation of ſuch an Adminiſtration as may enjoy the confidence of this Houſe, and tend to put an end to the unfortunate diviſions and diſtractions of the country.

Ayes	——	223
Noes	——	204
Majority	—	19

Martis

Martis 3° Die Februarii, 1784.

THE Houſe was moved, That the two following reſolutions of the Houſe of yeſterday might be read,

And the ſame were read accordingly, and are as follow, viz.

" RESOLVED, *Nemine contradicente*,
" THAT it is the opinion of this Houſe,
" that the preſent arduous and critical ſituation of public affairs requires the exertions
" of a firm, efficient, extended, united Adminiſtration, entitled to the confidence of the
" people, and ſuch as may have a tendency
" to put an end to the unfortunate diviſions
" and diſtractions of this country."

" RESOLVED,
" That it is the opinion of this Houſe,
" That the continuance of the preſent Mi-

" niſters in their office, is an obſtacle to the " formation of ſuch an Adminiſtration as " may enjoy the confidence of this Houſe, " and tend to put an end to the unfortu- " nate diviſions and diſtractions of the coun- " try."

Moved by
THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, Eſquire.

RESOLVED,

THAT the ſaid reſolutions be humbly laid before His Majeſty, by ſuch members of this Houſe as are of His Majeſty's moſt honourable Privy Council.

Ayes	——	211
Noes	——	187
Majority	—	24

Lunæ

Lunæ 16° *Die Februarii*, 1784.

THE reſolution of the Houſe of Lords upon the 6th day of this inſtant February, relating to the reſolution of this Houſe of the 24th of December and of the 12th and 14th of January laſt, was read, and is as followeth:

"RESOLVED,

"BY the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in "Parliament aſſembled, That an attempt in "any one branch of the Legiſlature to ſuſ-"pend the execution of law, by ſeparately "aſſuming to itſelf the direction of a diſcre-"tionary power, which, by act of Parlia-"ment is veſted in any body of men to be "exerciſed as they ſhall judge expedient, is "unconſtitutional."

Upon which the following reſolutions were come to by this Houſe.

Lunæ

Lunæ 16° *Die Februarii*, 1784.

Moved by Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP, ſeconded by Sir GREY COOPER, Baronet.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Houſe has not aſſumed to itſelf any right to ſuſpend the execution of law.

The previous queſtion was put,

Ayes	—	186
Noes	—	157
Majority	—	29

Moved by Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is conſtitutional and agreeable to uſage, for the Houſe of Commons to declare

clare their ſenſe and opinion reſpecting the exerciſe of every diſcretionary power, which, whether by act of Parliament, or otherwiſe, is veſted in any body of men whatever for the public ſervice.

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is a duty peculiarly incumbent upon this Houſe, entruſted by the conſtitution with the ſole and ſeparate grant of the public money, to watch over, and, by their timely admonitions and interference, to endeavour to prevent the raſh and precipitate exerciſe of any power, however veſted, which may be attended with any danger to public credit, or with heavy loſſes to the revenue, and conſequent burthens upon the people.

Moved

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT the reſolution of the 24th of December laſt, which declared the ſenſe and opinion of this Houſe, "That the Commiſ-"ſioners of the Treaſury ought not to give "their conſent to the acceptance of any bills "drawn, or to be drawn from India, until it "ſhall be made to appear to this Houſe, "that ſufficient means can be provided for "the payment of the ſame, when they re-"ſpectively fall due, by a regular applica-"tion of the clear effects of the Company, "after diſcharging, in their regular courſe, "the cuſtoms and other ſums due to the "public, and the current demands upon "the Company, or until this Houſe ſhall "otherwiſe direct," was conſtitutional, founded in a ſenſe of duty towards the people of this

this kingdom, and dictated by a becoming anxiety for the preſervation of the revenue and the ſupport of public credit.

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT if this Houſe had, in the unſettled ſtate of the Eaſt-India Company, which was, and ſtill is, under the conſideration of Parliament, in order to form ſome proviſions for the relief of that Company, and the ſecurity of the public, neglected to paſs the ſaid reſolution of the 24th of December, to guard againſt a new charge to a conſiderable amount, being raſhly incurred before any means of anſwering it had been ſtated or provided, they would have been juſtly and highly reſponſible to their conſtituents for

the increaſe of thoſe evils and difficulties which are already too ſeverely felt.

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Houſe will, with the utmoſt moderation, but with the moſt decided firmneſs, maintain inviolably the principles of the conſtitution, and will perſevere in the diligent and conſcientious diſcharge of thoſe duties which they owe to their conſtituents, and to their poſterity, equally ſolicitous to preſerve their own privileges, and to avoid any encroachments on thoſe of either of the other branches of the Legiſlature.

Mercurii

Mercurii 18° *Die Februarii*, 1784.

Queſtion put, That the report from the Committee of Supply (relative to the Ordnance) be *now* received.

Ayes	——	196
Noes	——	208
Majority	—	12

To be received upon Friday next, on the motion of the Right Honourable CHARLES JAMES FOX.

the increaſe of thoſe evils and difficulties which are already too ſeverely felt.

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Houſe will, with the utmoſt moderation, but with the moſt decided firmneſs, maintain inviolably the principles of the conſtitution, and will perſevere in the diligent and conſcientious diſcharge of thoſe duties which they owe to their conſtituents, and to their poſterity, equally ſolicitous to preſerve their own privileges, and to avoid any encroachments on thoſe of either of the other branches of the Legiſlature.

Mercurii

Mercurii 18° *Die Februarii*, 1784.

Queſtion put, That the report from the Committee of Supply (relative to the Ordnance) be *now* received.

Ayes	——	196
Noes	——	208
Majority	—	12

To be received upon Friday next, on the motion of the Right Honourable CHARLES JAMES FOX.

Veneris 20° Die Februarii, 1784.

Report from the Committee of Supply (relative to the Ordnance) received and agreed to.

Moved by THOMAS POWYS, Eſq. and ſeconded by WILLIAM HUSSEY, Eſq. and the Amendment moved by the Right Honourable WILLIAM EDEN,

RESOLVED,

THAT an humble Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty, moſt humbly to repreſent to His Majeſty, that this Houſe, impreſſed with the moſt dutiful ſenſe of His Majeſty's paternal regard for the welfare of his people, relies on His Majeſty's royal wiſdom, that he will take ſuch meaſures, as by removing any obſtacle to the formation of ſuch an Adminiſtration as this Houſe has declared to be requiſite in the preſent critical and arduous ſitua-

ſituation of public affairs, may tend to give effect to the wiſhes of his faithful Commons, which have already been moſt humbly repreſented to His Majeſty.

Ayes	——	197
Noes	——	177
Majority	—	20

RESOLVED,

That the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty by the whole Houſe.

His

His MAJESTY's Anſwer to the ſaid Addreſs.

27th February, 1784.

GENTLEMEN,

"I AM deeply ſenſible how highly it concerns the honour of my Crown, and the welfare of my people, which is the object always neareſt my heart, that the public affairs ſhould be conducted by a firm, efficient, united, and extended Adminiſtration, entitled to the confidence of my people, and ſuch as may have a tendency to put an end to the unhappy diviſions and diſtractions in this country. Very recent endeavours have already been employed, on my part, to unite in the public ſervice, on a fair and equal footing, thoſe whoſe joint efforts appear to me moſt capable of producing that happy effect: theſe

theſe endeavours have not had the ſucceſs I wiſhed. I ſhall be always deſirous of taking every ſtep moſt conducive to ſuch an object; but I cannot ſee that it would, in any degree, be advanced, by the diſmiſſion of thoſe at preſent in my ſervice.

" I obſerve at the ſame time, that there is no charge or complaint ſuggeſted againſt my preſent Miniſters, nor is any one or more of them ſpecifically objected to; and numbers of my ſubjects have expreſſed to me, in the warmeſt manner, their ſatisfaction in the late changes I have made in my councils. Under theſe circumſtances, I truſt, my faithful Commons will not wiſh that the eſſential offices of executive government ſhould be vacated, until I ſee a proſpect that ſuch a plan of union as I have called for, and they have pointed out, may be carried into effect."

Moved

Moved by

Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP.

ORDERED,

THAT His Majeſty's ſaid Anſwer be taken into conſideration upon Monday morning next.

Queſtion moved by Lord Viſcount BEAUCHAMP, put, That the Houſe do *now* adjourn till *Monday*.

Ayes	——	175
Noes	——	168
Majority	—	7

N. B. The Miniſter here wanted to vote the Navy.

Lunæ

Lunæ 1° *Die Martii*, 1784.

Moved by the Right Hon. CHARLES JAMES FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT an humble Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty, moſt humbly to repreſent to His Majeſty the ſatisfaction his faithful Commons derive from the late moſt gracious aſſurances we have received that His Majeſty concurs with us in opinion, that it concerns the honour of his Crown, and the welfare of his people, that the public affairs ſhould be conducted by a firm, efficient, extended, united Adminiſtration, entitled to the confidence of his people, and ſuch as may have a tendency to put an end to the unhappy diviſions and diſtractions of this country.

To acknowledge His Majeſty's paternal goodneſs in his late moſt gracious endeavours to give effect to the object of our late dutiful repreſentation to His Majeſty.

To lament that the failure of theſe His Majeſty's moſt gracious endeavours, ſhould be conſidered as a final bar to the accompliſhment of ſo ſalutary and deſirable a purpoſe; and to expreſs our concern and diſappointment that His Majeſty has not been adviſed to take any farther ſtep towards uniting in the public ſervice thoſe whoſe joint efforts have recently appeared to His Majeſty moſt capable of producing ſo happy an effect.

That this Houſe, with all humility, claims it as their right, and on every proper occaſion feels it to be their bounden duty, to adviſe His Majeſty, touching the exerciſe of any branch of his royal prerogative.

That

That we ſubmit it to His Majeſty's royal conſideration, that the continuance of an Adminiſtration which does not poſſeſs the confidence of the Repreſentatives of the people, muſt be injurious to the public ſervice.

That this Houſe can have no intereſt diſtinct and ſeparate from that of their conſtituents; and that they therefore feel themſelves called upon to repeat thoſe loyal and dutiful aſſurances they have already expreſſed of their reliance on His Majeſty's paternal regard for the welfare of his people, that His Majeſty would graciouſly enable them to execute thoſe important truſts which the conſtitution has veſted in them, with honour to themſelves, and advantage to the public, by the formation of a new Adminiſtration, appointed under circumſtances, which may tend to conciliate the minds of his faithful Commons, and to give energy and ſtability to his Majeſty's councils.

That as His Majeſty's faithful Commons, upon the matureſt deliberation, cannot but conſider the continuance of the preſent Miniſters as an inſurmountable obſtacle to His Majeſty's gracious purpoſe to comply with their wiſhes, in the formation of ſuch an Adminiſtration as His Majeſty, in concurrence with the unanimous reſolution of this Houſe, ſeems to think requiſite in the preſent exigencies of the country:—They feel themſelves bound to remain firm in the wiſh expreſſed to His Majeſty in their late humble addreſs; and do therefore find themſelves obliged again to beſeech His Majeſty, that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to lay the foundation of a ſtrong and ſtable government, by the previous removal of His preſent Miniſters.

Ayes	——	201
Noes	——	189
Majority	—	12

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty by the whole Houſe.

Jovis 4° Die Martii, 1784.

His MAJESTY's ANSWER to the ſaid ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,

" I HAVE already expreſſed to you how ſenſible I am of the advantages to be derived from ſuch an Adminiſtration as was pointed out in your unanimous reſolution; and I aſſured you, that I was deſirous of taking every ſtep moſt conducive to ſuch an object.

" I re-

" I remain in the ſame ſentiments; but I continue equally convinced, that it is an object not likely to be obtained by the diſmiſſion of my preſent Miniſters.

" I muſt repeat, that no charge, or complaint, nor any ſpecific objection, is yet made againſt any of them.

" If there were any ſuch ground for their removal at preſent, it ought to be equally a reaſon for not admitting them as a part of that extended and united Adminiſtration you ſtate to be requiſite.

" I did not conſider the failure of my recent endeavours as a final bar to the accompliſhment of the purpoſe which I had in view, if it could have been attained on thoſe principles of fairneſs and equality, without

which

which it can neither be honourable to thoſe who are concerned, nor lay the foundation of ſuch a ſtrong and ſtable government as may be of laſting advantage to the country; but I know of no farther ſteps which I can take, that are likely to remove the difficulties which obſtruct that deſireable end.

" I have never called in queſtion the right of my faithful Commons to offer me their advice on every proper occaſion, touching the exerciſe of any branch of my prerogative. —I ſhall be ready, at all times, to receive, and give it the moſt attentive conſideration: they will ever find me diſpoſed to ſhew my regard to the true principles of the conſtitution, and to take ſuch meaſures as may beſt conduce to the ſatisfaction and proſperity of my people.

ORDERED,

ORDERED,

THAT His Majeſty's ſaid Anſwer be taken into conſideration upon Monday morning next.

Lunæ 8° *Die Martii*, 1784.

Moved by the

Right Hon. CHARLES JAMES FOX.

RESOLVED,

THAT an humble repreſentation be preſented to his Majeſty, moſt humbly to teſtify the ſurprize and affliction of this Houſe, on receiving the anſwer which His Majeſty's Miniſters have adviſed to the dutiful and ſeaſonable addreſs of this Houſe, concerning one of the moſt important acts of His Majeſty's government.

To

To expreſs our concern, that when His Majeſty's paternal goodneſs has graciouſly inclined His Majeſty to be ſenſible of the advantage to be derived from ſuch an Adminiſtration as was pointed out in our reſolution, His Majeſty ſhould ſtill be induced to prefer the opinions of individuals to the repeated advice of the repreſentatives of his people in Parliament aſſembled, with reſpect to the means of obtaining ſo deſireable an end.

To repreſent to His Majeſty that a preference of this nature is as injurious to the true intereſts of the Crown, as it is wholly repugnant to the ſpirit of our free conſtitution, that ſyſtems founded on ſuch a preference are not in truth entirely new in this country; that they have been the characteriſtic features of thoſe unfortunate reigns, the maxims of which are now juſtly and univerſally exploded; while His Majeſty and his

royal progenitors have been fixed in the hearts of their people, and have commanded the reſpect and admiration of all the nations of the earth, by a conſtant and uniform attention to the advice of their Commons, however adverſe ſuch advice may have been to the opinions of the executive ſervants of the Crown.

To aſſure His Majeſty that we neither have diſputed, nor mean, in any inſtance, to diſpute, much leſs to deny, His Majeſty's undoubted prerogative of appointing to the executive offices of State ſuch perſons as to His Majeſty's wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet: but, at the ſame time, that we muſt, with all humility, again ſubmit to His Majeſty's royal wiſdom, that no Adminiſtration, however legally appointed, can ſerve His Majeſty and the public with effect which does not enjoy the confidence of this Houſe:—that in His Majeſty's

Majeſty's preſent Adminiſtration we cannot confide; the circumſtances under which it was conſtituted, and the grounds upon which it continues, have created juſt ſuſpicions in the breaſts of his faithful Commons, that principles are adopted, and views entertained, unfriendly to the privileges of this Houſe, and to the freedom of our excellent Conſtitution; that we have made no charge againſt any of them, becauſe it is their removal, and not their puniſhment, which we have deſired; and that we humbly conceive we are warranted, by the ancient uſage of this Houſe, to deſire ſuch removal without making any charge whatever; that confidence may be very prudently withheld, where no criminal proceſs can be properly inſtituted: that although we have made no criminal charge againſt any individual of His Majeſty's Miniſters, yet, with all humility, we do conceive, that we have ſtated to His Majeſty very diſtinct objections, and very forcible

 reaſons,

reaſons, againſt their continuance. That with regard to the propriety of admitting either the preſent Miniſters, or any other perſons, as a part of that extended and united Adminiſtration, which His Majeſty, in concurrence with the ſentiments of this Houſe, conſiders as requiſite; it is a point upon which we are too well acquainted with the bounds of our duty to preſume to offer any advice to His Majeſty, well knowing it to be the undoubted prerogative of his Majeſty to appoint his Miniſters without any previous advice from either Houſe of Parliament; and our duty humbly to offer to His Majeſty our advice, when ſuch appointments ſhall appear to us to be prejudicial to the public ſervice.

To acknowledge, with gratitude, His Majeſty's goodneſs in not conſidering the failure of his recent endeavours as a final bar to the accompliſhment of the gracious purpoſe which His Majeſty has in view, and to expreſs the great

great concern and mortification with which we find ourſelves obliged to declare, that the conſolation which we ſhould naturally have derived from His Majeſty's moſt gracious diſpoſition, is conſiderably abated by underſtanding that His Majeſty's adviſers have not thought fit to ſuggeſt to his Majeſty any farther ſteps to remove the difficulties which obſtruct ſo deſirable an end.

To recall to His Majeſty's recollection, that his faithful Commons have already ſubmitted to His Majeſty, moſt humbly, but moſt diſtinctly, their opinion upon this ſubject; that they can have no intereſts but thoſe of his Majeſty and of their Conſtituents; whereas, it is needleſs to ſuggeſt to His Majeſty's wiſdom and diſcernment, that individual adviſers may be actuated by very different motives.

To expreſs our moſt unfeigned gratitude for His Majeſty's royal aſſurances that he does not call in queſtion the right of this Houſe to offer their advice to his Majeſty on every proper occaſion, touching the exerciſe of any branch of his royal prerogative, and of His Majeſty's readineſs, at all times, to receive ſuch advice, and to give it the moſt attentive conſideration.

To declare that we recognize in theſe gracious expreſſions thoſe excellent and conſtitutional ſentiments, which we have ever been accuſtomed to hear from the throne ſince the glorious æra of the revolution, and which have peculiarly characterized His Majeſty, and the princes of his illuſtrious Houſe; but, to lament that theſe moſt gracious expreſſions, while they inſpire us with additional affection and gratitude towards His Majeſty's royal perſon, do not a little contribute to in-

ceaſe

creaſe our ſuſpicions of thoſe men who have adviſed His Majeſty in direct contradiction to theſe aſſurances, to neglect the advice of his Commons, and to retain in his ſervice an Adminiſtration, whoſe continuance in office we have ſo repeatedly and ſo diſtinctly condemned.

To repreſent to His Majeſty, that it has anciently been the practice of this Houſe to withhold ſupplies until grievances were redreſſed; and that if we were to follow this courſe in the preſent conjuncture, we ſhould be warranted in our proceeding, as well by the moſt approved precedents, as by the ſpirit of the conſtitution itſelf; but, if in conſideration of the very peculiar exigencies of the times, we ſhould be induced to wave for the preſent the exerciſe, in this inſtance, of our undoubted legal and conſtitutional mode of obtaining redreſs, that we humbly implore

His

His Majeſty not to impute our forbearance to any want of ſincerity in our complaints or diſtruſt in the juſtice of our cauſe.

That we know, and are ſure, that the proſperity of His Majeſty's dominions in former times has been, under Divine Providence, owing to the harmony which has for near a century prevailed uninterruptedly between the Crown and this Houſe. That we are convinced, that there is no way to extricate this country from its preſent difficulties, but by purſuing the ſame ſyſtem to which we have been indebted at various periods of our hiſtory for our ſucceſſes abroad, and which is at all times ſo neceſſary for our tranquillity at home. That we feel the continuance of the preſent Adminiſtration to be an innovation upon that happy ſyſtem.

That we cannot but expect, from their exiſtence under the diſpleaſure of this Houſe, every

every misfortune naturally incident to a weak and diſtracted government; that if we had concealed from His Majeſty our honeſt ſentiments upon this important criſis, we ſhould have been in ſome degree reſponſible for the miſchiefs which are but too certain to enſue.

That we have done our duty to His Majeſty and our Conſtituents in pointing out the evil, and in humbly imploring redreſs: that the blame and reſponſibility muſt now lie wholly upon thoſe who have preſumed to adviſe His Majeſty to act in contradiction to the uniform maxims which have hitherto governed the conduct of His Majeſty, as well as every other Prince of his illuſtrious Houſe; upon thoſe who have diſregarded the opinions, and neglected the admonitions of the Repreſentatives of his people, and who have thereby attempted to ſet up a new ſyſtem of executive Adminiſtration, which, wanting the confidence of this Houſe, and acting in

His Majeſty not to impute our forbearance to any want of ſincerity in our complaints or diſtruſt in the juſtice of our cauſe.

That we know, and are ſure, that the proſperity of His Majeſty's dominions in former times has been, under Divine Providence, owing to the harmony which has for near a century prevailed uninterruptedly between the Crown and this Houſe. That we are convinced, that there is no way to extricate this country from its preſent difficulties, but by purſuing the ſame ſyſtem to which we have been indebted at various periods of our hiſtory for our ſucceſſes abroad, and which is at all times ſo neceſſary for our tranquillity at home. That we feel the continuance of the preſent Adminiſtration to be an innovation upon that happy ſyſtem.

That we cannot but expect, from their exiſtence under the diſpleaſure of this Houſe,

every

every misfortune naturally incident to a weak and diſtracted government; that if we had concealed from His Majeſty our honeſt ſentiments upon this important criſis, we ſhould have been in ſome degree reſponſible for the miſchiefs which are but too certain to enſue.

That we have done our duty to His Majeſty and our Conſtituents in pointing out the evil, and in humbly imploring redreſs: that the blame and reſponſibility muſt now lie wholly upon thoſe who have preſumed to adviſe His Majeſty to act in contradiction to the uniform maxims which have hitherto governed the conduct of His Majeſty, as well as every other Prince of his illuſtrious Houſe; upon thoſe who have diſregarded the opinions, and neglected the admonitions of the Repreſentatives of his people, and who have thereby attempted to ſet up a new ſyſtem of executive Adminiſtration, which, wanting the confidence of this Houſe, and acting in

 defiance

defiance to our reſolutions, muſt prove at once inadequate, by its inefficiency, to the neceſſary objects of Government, and dangerous, by its example, to the liberties of the people.

Ayes	——	191
Noes	——	190
Majority	—	1

ORDERED,

THAT the ſaid repreſentation be preſented to His Majeſty, by ſuch members of this Houſe as are of His Majeſty's moſt honourable Privy Council.

Mercurii

Mercurii 10° *Die Martis*, 1784.

THE Lord HINCHINGBROOK reported to the Houſe, that their repreſentation of Monday laſt had been preſented to His Majeſty; and that His Majeſty was pleaſed to receive the ſame graciouſly.

THE END.